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ON THE HISTORY OF THE ROMANIAN LANGUAGE STUDIES IN RUSSIA

By 1819 preparations to set up a school based on the Lancaster system of education had already started in Bessarabia. It was evident that there was a requirement for teaching staff. A group of prospective Moldavian teachers were sent to St. Petersburg to undertake a teachers' training course. Among them was Ya. D. Ginkulov who returned to Kishinev in 1821. Following the Imperial Decree of Alexander I two years later in 1823 free schools of learning under the egis of the clergy were opened in the towns of Kishinev, Beltzy and Ismail.

In January 1824 Ya. D. Ginkulov was appointed Headmaster of one of the schools located in Kishinev. By 1829 he had completed his work on the Moldavian-Russian dictionary and moved to St. Petersburg, where he was destined to live to the end of his life. The words in his dictionary are arranged in clusters. Some of them remain without a translation, whereas other words are translated into Latin, and in places their Italian and Greek forms are also given. Currently Ginkulov's dictionary is preserved at the Department of Manuscripts of the Russian National Library in St. Petersburg.

Ya. D. Ginkulov accepted the position of a translator in the Asian Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry in 1830; and in 1839, when the Department of Wallachian and Moldavian language was established at St. Petersburg University, he was invited to be its Chairperson. It was at this University Department that the Moldavian language became the subject of academic studies and learning. Undoubtedly, teaching was held with the aid of the textbooks which he had personally compiled.

The Department of the Romanian Language was dissolved in 1858. All in all, Ya. D. Ginkulov had spent in St. Petersburg 35 years, from 1830 to 1865.

Another person dedicated to Romanian studies was Stephen Margeala, a Bessarabian lawyer, who became an official at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in St. Petersburg. He wrote *Russian-Romanian Grammar*, in 1827. Out of the two planned books this first one consists of two parts, *A Collection of Words* and *Everyday Speech Topics*, in which the Romanian language is written down with the

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help of the Cyrillic alphabet. The Dictionary is interesting from the point of view of historical lexicography, for it shows the status of the language at the beginning of the 19th century. The second part of the book covers 35 dialogues mainly covering communication between a Russian-speaking master and his Romanian-speaking servants, and also with vendors and petty clerks, clergymen, etc.

As well as the *Moldavian-Russian Dictionary* Ya. D. Ginkulov published *Written Rules of Wallachian-Moldavian Grammar* (Sankt Petersburg, 1840). In this book the first scientific reference to the ethnonym of Romanians appeared, which sounded as a *Romyn*. The author gave the following explanation, „[...] before the Province of Moldova was set up, the population of both principalities had been known as Romyns. Later on this name was left to the south-western ancestors of the Romyns, the Wallachians". In Ya. D. Ginkulov's opinion, the Romanian language took its origin from spoken Latin, and he gave the following examples: Lat. *intelligat* > spoken Lat. *intelligat* > Rom. *înțeleg* (*ibidem*). He wrote about the necessity to carry comparative studies of the Romanian and other Romance languages, and at the same time pointed out that some of the inner forms of the Romanian language have certain things in common with the Slavonic languages. He also wondered which was first – Latin or the Slavonic substrate language. He supported his idea with a hypothesis that some 'Slavonic tribe' could be a distant ancestor of the Romanians, to which Roman settlers 'gave their name' and 'forbidden from the actual use their own language'.

Ya. D. Ginkulov was the first scholar in Russian science who computed the ratio of foreign language vocabulary in Romanian, and the result was 0.5 words from Latin, 0.3 words from Slavonic, and the rest came from Hungarian, Turkish and Greek.

Written Rules... consists of five parts. The first part is dedicated to graphics and orthography, and shows the temporal Slavonic script together with ecclesial letters. It also shows the diacritic signs and some new ones for Wallachian at that time, with Latin letters being used to represent certain letters (d, n, m, etc.). The second part, *General Etymology*, deals in word formation; it has a lot of tables and lists of exceptions. The third part, *Specific Etymology*, describes the nominal and verbal word formation. In the fourth part, *The Syntax*, Ginkulov attempts to show the difference between the Wallachian and Moldavian, and Russian complex sentence. The fifth part, *The Word Pronunciation*, provides the rules of accentuation. The book ends with a list of grammar terms, which became the first Russian-Romanian linguistic terminology vocabulary. Ginkulov published another book in the same year that was titled *A Complete Collection of Works and Translations in Prose and Verse to Exercise in Wallachian and Moldavian language. With the Enclosed Vocabulary and a Collection of Authentic Slavonic Words in Use in Wallachian and Moldavian Language*' (Sankt Petersburg, 1840).

The first part of the book was a reader in the Romanian language written in Church Slavonic Cyrillic, but without a translation. It included parts from the Gospel, from the Law Codes issued in Moldavia, etc.

The second part presents *A Collection of Slavonic Words Used in Wallachian and Moldavian*. In 1847 Ya. D. Ginkulov published his new book, *A Concise Wallachian and Moldavian Grammar*, which actually was a brief rewording of the *Written Rules...*

His last book was *A Vade-mecum for Russian Soldiers to Be Used in Their Military Campaigns in Wallachian and Moldavian Principalities* (Sankt-Petersburg, 1854). It was, in fact, a *Russian-Romanian Dictionary of Most Commonly Used Words* which contained 3 500 vocabulary entries provided with translation and even their Romanian synonyms. Taken together, those were the collection of books which Ya. D. Ginkulov used in his teaching classes at Sankt Petersburg University.

Romanian studies in Russia started up within the framework of Slavonic studies. The Romanian language and its folklore were the subject of research for Russian scientists first and foremost from the point of view of the long-term and close Slavonic and Romanian contacts.

So this is in brief the history of Romanian language teaching in Russia beginning with Ya. D. Ginkulov who taught at St. Petersburg University. In the mid-20th century the Romanian language and culture attracted the interest of outstanding Russian Romance scholars, among them V. F. Shishmarev, M. V. Sergeyevsky, R. A. Boudagov, and others.

Due to the initiative of Academician Shishmarev, a Romanian department was opened at the Romance languages sub-faculty in 1957. This triggered the question of who was going to teach this language. There were no such specialists being trained in the country at that time. It was E. G. Golubeva who became the first lecturer. She had just graduated from the Spanish department of the Faculty of Philology of the Leningrad University. She studied Romanian under the guidance of R. A. Budagov, a famous Soviet specialist in Romance languages, and R.G. Piotrovsky who later started machine translation in our country. Golubeva went with him on dialectologic research expeditions in Moldavia. She studied this country far and wide, and also attended a summer language course in Romania.

Together with E. G. Golubeva, I. S. Greenberg started to teach Romanian literature at the University. She was born in 1911 in Bessarabia. Some elderly lecturers of the Faculty of Philology still remember I.S. Greenberg. She was such a reserved person, however, that we know almost nothing about her. It was also with great difficulty that I finally found her photo.

After fifteen years of teaching Romanian Golubeva switched over to the Portuguese language, became the Head of the Portuguese department, and headed it up to 1992. For the last five years she has read a course of literary translation to the students of the Romanian department. The Romanian language does not lose hold of those who once studied it in depth. At present Golubeva is busy with preparing a Russian translation of a novel by a Romanian writer who is almost unknown in Russia. She is eager to make Romanian literature popular in Russia.

This year in an issue of „Sphinx" fiction magazine the students of Golubeva published a translation of the story *Antonia* by Anton Holban (1902–1937), which they had prepared at her course. This writer is also hardly known in our country.

Since 1958, T. A. Repina has worked at the Romanian department. She graduated from the French department of the Faculty of Philology of the Leningrad University in 1951. It was suggested to Repina that she changed her major and became a teacher of the Romanian language. She had to study this language in its active form completely by herself; though as a student she had already gained some expertise in it under the guidance of I. S. Greenberg. Later on, Romanian turned out to be of paramount importance in her activities both as a researcher and a lecturer. T. A. Repina also studied Romanian at a summer international language school in Romania, attended lectures on the history of French by Professor Nicolae Condeescu at the Bucharest University, delivered lectures on the history of Romanian at the University of Cluj. She was acquainted and communicated with famous scholars such as Alexandru Graur, Iorgu Iordan, Alexandru Rossetti, and many others. Sixteen dissertations were completed and defended under the guidance of Repina. Professor Repina headed the Romanian department of the Romance sub-faculty in 1963–1984 and in 1994–2004, and the whole Romance sub-faculty in 1983–1993.

She became the author of a series of textbooks and workbooks on Romanian. Among other works by Repina are: *Introduction to Romance Philology* (1987), *A Comparative Typology of Romance languages* (1996), *A History of Romanian* (2002), and *A Grammar Theory of Romanian* (2003). Thus, she has supplied the Romanian department with all the necessary textbooks and tutorials.

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Abstract

In 1839 St. Petersburg University opened the Department of the Wallachian-Moldavian language that continued till 1858. It was at this Department that this language for the first time was raised to a position of a subject studied and taught at a university level long before it began to be considered an issue of scholarly interest and put to linguistic use in Europe.

The first head of the Department was Ya. D. Ginkulov (1800–1870). Owing to him, the first Russian treatise on the Romanian language „The Outline of the Grammar Rules in Wallachian-Moldavian” (1840) was published. Ginkulov is also considered to have introduced a new ethnic term (ethnonym) – the Romanians.

The year 1823 saw the beginning of teaching the Romanian language in Chisinau theological school. Among the basic didactic materials used then was „The Russian-Romanian Grammar Book” compiled by Stephen Margeala that consisted of an ideoglossary based on a restricted word-list combined with a Russian-Romanian phrase-book (in an old Cyrillic script). No less attention was given to the Romanian language studies by I. I. Sreznevsky (1812–1880), a famous specialist in Slavic languages and literatures. It was he who made a conclusion that the Slavic peoples had inhabited Dacia before the Roman occupation. Moreover, he was the first to put a special stress on the difficulty in distinguishing the earlier Slavonic borrowings from the more recent ones.

A considerable contribution into developing Romanian studies in Russia was made by P. A. Syrku (1855–1905), whose befitting successor, A. I. Yatsimirsky (1873–1925), wrote a number of works on the ancient culture and literary process in Moldova and Wallachia. Another scholar who gave a lot of thought and time to the Romanian language and culture studies was A. I. Sobolevsky (1856–1929). This list of Russian scholars engaged in the Romanian studies is far from being complete, as in 1957 Leningrad State University revived the Romanian Department and resumed the tradition of teaching this language in our city (prof. T. A. Repina).

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